

## **DET NEWS: UAW's King rallies members ahead of mid-term elections**

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Washington -- United Auto Workers President Bob King rallied thousands of union workers and others during a rally on the National Mall Saturday, urging them to get to the polls during next month's mid-term elections.

"My message is we believe in an America of hope. We believe in an America of optimism. We believe in an America where people care about one another. We can build a stronger and better America. We can create more abundance to share with everybody--rather than contract and give it only to a certain few," King said in a Detroit News interview Saturday before the rally.

Tens of thousands of people took in the "One Nation Working Together" rally sponsored by unions, the NAACP, environmental and other liberal groups to tout jobs and other priorities. An estimated 5,000 UAW members and retirees took participated .

Hundreds of UAW members after taking overnight buses met near the Washington Monument to get posters before marching toward the Lincoln Memorial for the noon rally.

King said the UAW would be working to turn out its 350,000 members during the elections that will decide control of the U.S. House and Senate. Republicans are poised to make major gains -- and could take control of both houses of Congress -- amid stubbornly high unemployment.

King said that even if union members weren't happy with what the Obama administration had done since January 2009, they would still turn out to support Democrats. Paraphrasing the TV talk show Bill Maher, King said: "I'd rather have a friend that I'm a little bit disappointed in, than an enemy that's trying to kill me."

But King emphasized he was happy with Obama's performance.

"President Obama is doing all he can do to try to help working people. The problem is the Senate -- Republicans are just the party of no, trying to block everything." Horace Dobson Jr., of Oak Park, a unionized registered nurse at GM's Detroit-Hamtramck assembly plant, came to the rally after taking an all-night bus from Michigan.

"People don't realize that we -- the voters -- are the power. Not the Senate, not the Congress. They are our representatives," said Dobson, who traveled with his 11-year-old son, Joseph, and has worked at the GM plant since 1985. "We are the ones paying their salaries."

King declined to say how much the union might spend in its mid-term get-out-the-vote-effort. "We're going to do all we can do," he said. "We're going to work our butts off."

King flew to Washington from Italy on Friday, where he met with Fiat SpA suppliers and others as part of a Wayne County trade commission in an effort to convince parts companies to move work to Michigan.

"We went to try to get more jobs into Michigan. We've got a lot of members laid off. We see it as part of our responsibility to work with government, work with the companies. We've got the most highly skilled workforce in Michigan, Ohio, Midwest -- so we want to bring jobs there," King said. "These are first meetings. We'll have some ongoing meetings."

On the decision by Chrysler to fire 13 workers at the Jefferson North Assembly plant who were caught on video using alcohol and drugs, King said: "That's an internal issue we're working on."

He reiterated the union's strong statement criticizing their behavior.

"We have zero tolerance for drugs or alcohol in the workplace because of the impact it has on safety and everybody involved," King said. "We'll work through the system."